

## 62 Opportunity To Comment

Jan. 4 L20838134

### **OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT USDA Forest Service — Black Hills National Forest Teckla-Osage-Rapid City 230kV Transmission Line**

**Weston County, Wyoming; Pennington County, South Dakota**

The Forest Service is requesting comments on the proposed actions described in the Teckla-Osage-Rapid City 230kV Transmission Line Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Black Hills Power (BHP) proposes to construct and operate a 230 kV transmission line from north-eastern Wyoming to the Rapid City area in South Dakota. It would connect the Teckla Substation in Campbell County, Wyoming to the Osage Substation in Weston County, Wyoming and the Lange Substation located in Pennington County near Rapid City, South Dakota. This transmission line is proposed to strengthen the transmission network, improve transmission system reliability, and to help meet future demand for electricity and economic development in the region. The project proposes to cross private, state and public lands including the Black Hills National Forest (BHNF), Thunder Basin National Grasslands, and lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and State of Wyoming. The Forest Service is the lead agency on this project, and BLM is a cooperating agency.

The project is conducted under the Forest Service predecisional objection regulation at 36 CFR 218, and is subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). NEPA requires federal agencies to evaluate the environmental effects of a proposed project prior to deciding whether to allow the proposed project to be built on federally-managed land. Three alternatives are considered in detail: the No Action Alternative (Alternative 1), the Proposed Action (Alternative 2), and the Proposed Action with Route Modifications (Alternative 3). This DEIS discloses the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects resulting from the proposed action and alternatives. The Agencies have identified Alternative 3 with the inclusion of route modifications 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3f and 3g as the preferred alternative.

Comments should be addressed to Ruth Esperance, Mystic District Ranger, Teckla-Osage-Rapid City Transmission Line, 8221 South Highway 16, Rapid City, SD 57702. Comments may be hand-delivered to this address from 8:00 a.m. till 4:30 p.m. on business days. Comments may be emailed

to: [comments-rocky-mountain-black-hills-mystic@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-rocky-mountain-black-hills-mystic@fs.fed.us) with 'Teckla-Osage-Rapid City Transmission Line' as the subject. Emailed comments must be readable in Microsoft Word (.doc), Rich Text (.rtf) or .pdf formats. The DEIS is available on the BHNF web site at <http://go.usa.gov/Bh1>. The comment period ends 45 days following the date of publication of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register, which was December 27, 2013. Comments submitted, including names and addresses of commenters, are public information.

Only those who submit timely, specific written comments on this proposal during a public comment period established by the responsible official will be eligible to file an objection. Each individual or representative from each entity submitting timely, specific written comments on this proposal must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request in order to be eligible to file an objection.

Public meetings are planned to take comments on the DEIS. These meetings will be announced in press releases and posted on the Black Hills National Forest website (address listed above).

Forest Supervisor Craig Bobzien is the responsible official who will make the decision on that portion of the

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Saturday, January 4, 2014

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project proposed on lands managed by the Black Hills National Forest. More information or a copy of the DEIS may be obtained at the above address or by calling Ruth Esperance at (605) 343-1567 or Ed Fischer at (605) 673-9207.

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